

ROADS TO CUT COST OF UNSKILLED LABOR

Eastern Lines Issue Call for Conference With Their Employees.

200,000 MEN AFFECTED

Appeal to Labor Board Is Deemed Probable by Executives.

A determined effort to bring down the cost of unskilled labor from its present level of 48¢ an hour to 35¢ a figure more nearly in line with the price at which such labor may be curiously engaged to be made by every railroad in the Eastern territory prior to April 1. Approximately 200,000 men in the district are affected and the roads hope to be able to slash at a day a man from the payroll by April 1.

Notices calling for conferences with employees were sent out yesterday by several managers of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western, the Lehigh Valley and the Jersey Central. With the exception of the New York, New Haven and Hartford, the New York Central and the Erie, the movement is being made immediately. The New Haven's notice to employees calling for a conference will probably go out to-day.

The territory involved is that bounded by New York, Pittsburgh, Buffalo and points north and Washington. Of the notices sent out yesterday, the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western's Western's meeting will be held in New York on March 14, that of the Jersey Central on March 14, also in New York, and that of the Lehigh Valley in Bethlehem, Pa., on March 11.

The decision was reached at a meeting of the General Managers' Association and backed by the railroad executives of the district that the unskilled railroad laborers are the highest paid in each section, and follows directly the recommendations of the United States Labor Board in its case of the Erie Railroad and of the Atlanta, Birmingham and Atlantic.

The notices sent out yesterday were addressed to the laborers, crossing watchmen, lamp lighters, lamp tenders, dock workers, storehouse and storemen, freight handlers, baggage porters, station, warehouse, and janitors, transfer workers, platform men, fire builders, ash pit men, flue burners, coal passers, coal chute workers, coal dock laborers, and every other railroad employee whose work is classed as unskilled.

That the cases will go to the Labor Board on an appeal of the men is the opinion generally expressed by railroad executives, as the men believe the cost of living which the advances were made to meet has not declined sufficiently to allow the men to live decently on lower wages.

A sub-committee of the General Managers' Association of the Eastern roads has completed an exhaustive inquiry on wages and living conditions in the territory and will present these facts and figures at the conferences. They expect to show that the rate for unskilled labor ranges from 35 to 40 cents, and that the cost of living has been reduced from 20 to 25 per cent. from its peak.

WAGE AGREEMENT MADE.

Shipping Board Extends Terms Until October With Longshoremen.

WASHINGTON, March 2.—Extension of the present wage agreement between the Shipping Board and all longshoremen employed on its vessels until October 1 was announced to-day by Chairman Benson of the board.

The working agreement for a wage of eighty cents an hour between the board and the longshoremen expired last October. The board had refused to renew it, but a new agreement was negotiated with representatives of the longshoremen to continue in effect the same wages, hours and working conditions for another year. This agreement has just been ratified by the board.

The new agreement provides that 150,000 men are affected by the agreement, which is expected by board officials to avoid the possibility of the strike on May 1 recently reported as threatened.

RAIL SERVICE ANALYZED.

Labor Is Real Problem, Declares Elliha Lee.

PHILADELPHIA, March 2.—Any measure for a substantial lowering of the cost of rendering service by the nation's railroads must be based upon more efficient results from each hour of labor paid for, or a reduction in wage scales, or both. Elliha Lee, vice-president of the Pennsylvania Railroad system for the Eastern district, declared to-night before the Technology Club of Philadelphia.

"No one," he added, "asks how much the railroads can afford to pay but how much the public can afford to receive. Realization that railroad wages come directly out of the pockets of the people is constantly becoming more general, and this conception, I believe, is destined to do more than anything else to clarify the railroad situation."

WORK BASED ON SERVICE.

Full Time for Employees With Ten Year Record.

The Standard Oil Company of Bayonne announced yesterday a new schedule of working hours to go into effect immediately, affecting 4,000 employees.

Employees who have been in the service of the Standard Oil Company for ten years or more will be given work for full time; employees of five years service and less than ten will be employed five days a week and those who have been in the service less than five years will be cut to four days a week.

BUILDERS ISSUE ULTIMATUM.

Beacon, March 2.—The 90 cent an hour wage scale offered to the United Building Trades Council by the Building Trades Employers' association, refusal of which by the workers has resulted in the issuance of a 15-day ultimatum in this city, will be withdrawn March 10 unless accepted and signed by that time.

Announcement to this effect was sent to the council by the association to-day. The employers' organization did not indicate in its letter to the council whether it would submit another scale later.

WAGE REDUCTION DEFERRED.

PHILADELPHIA, March 2.—Notices have been posted in Delaware River wharves that the 10 per cent. reduction in wages, which was to have become effective March 1, will not be put into effect until March 15, owing to the large amount of detail necessary to work out the new schedule.

SHIPWORKERS' WAGES CUT.

NEWPORT NEWS, Va., March 2.—The Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company to-day announced a general wage reduction averaging between 12 and 15 per cent., effective March 15.

ARTISTIC ATMOSPHERE HERE UNDOING OF CHICAGO WIFE

Pangs She Suffers at Thought of Returning to "Material" Mate in Windy City Win Divorce for Robert F. Reynolds.

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD, Chicago, March 2.—Letters from her wife in New York, which described poignantly the "pangs suffered by an artistic soul" when linked with the companionship of a material husband, was a divorce here to-day for Robert F. Reynolds. One letter from New York told of Mrs. Reynolds' enjoyment of the metropolitan artistic atmosphere, which does not atrophy her mind as living with her husband did.

Drawing a pen picture of the stolid husband, Mrs. Reynolds asserts she is through "being a fool."

"If I must work and support myself," the epistle reads, "then I don't want some male hanging around."

"I am now coming right into my element," she writes, "and I am feeling that I am living with you in an artistic atmosphere, because you have no artistic instincts—you are so matter of fact."

"I feel just like a little chicken that has just burst out of the shell. Could

GARY CONTRADICTS WILLIAMS REPORT

Continued from First Page.

submit that your criticism should be directed not at the price policy of this corporation but against the price fixing policy adopted by the Government during the years in question."

Reduced Prices in 1919.

In discussing the situation during the post war period, that is the years 1919 and 1920, Mr. Gary calls the attention of Mr. Williams to the fact that the maximum prices were cancelled or withdrawn the United States Steel Corporation and other steel manufacturers reduced prices. This reduction was in 1919, and was a total average reduction of about \$10 a ton. He also emphasized the fact that from January 1, 1919, there have been no governmental restrictions on steel prices and the market price for steel has been influenced entirely by the law of supply and demand.

"Although during 1920 in particular," the statement says, "many producers of steel, owing to the unusual demand in comparison with the supply, were able to secure in many cases substantially higher prices than the price schedule established in March, 1919, the corporation has adhered to that schedule; it has not asked or received higher base prices. It did not join in the wave of inflation prices in most commodities in 1919 and 1920, notwithstanding wage increases, advances in prices of raw materials, heavy advances in freight rates, tax increases and increases in other general expenses, arising from this wave of inflation, all of which added very largely to the cost of production, so largely in fact, that at the close of 1920 the margin in a number of lines, between manufacturing cost and selling price was practically nil, in some cases exceeding selling price."

Mr. Gary's statement declares that the only basis for the demand must be based on the relation between profits earned and the investment in the corporation's properties. He submits data showing that in 1919 the profits earned on the investment, after providing Federal taxes but before deducting any special appropriations, amounted to \$228,488,733. The investment on December 31, 1920 was \$2,275,065,526, making 10 per cent. of profits earned on investment. This, Mr. Gary declares, does not indicate profiteering.

"It has been said," says the statement, "that our common stock when issued was not represented by any cash value. I emphatically deny that any such condition prevailed, but if it were true, I present to you the figures of relationship of net profits to the investment in the properties, not counting the common stock as originally represented by cash property value, and which have not been reduced by the payment of Federal taxes but before deducting any special appropriations, amounted to \$228,488,733. The investment on December 31, 1920 was \$2,275,065,526, making 10 per cent. of profits earned on investment."

Williams' Figures Challenged.

A considerable part of Mr. Gary's statement is devoted to a discussion of the figures which Mr. Williams has made by Mr. Williams and contained in the latter's letter to Directors-General Hines. In this analysis Mr. Williams states that exclusive of certain special appropriations, as set forth in the corporation's annual report, the amount of the corporation's income for 1918 was \$459,180,000. Mr. Gary says he does not know how these figures were arrived at, but declares that the correct figures, the net earnings of the company, are \$548,485,353.

"From this total of net earnings," says Mr. Gary, "you draw two conclusions:

"First—That the corporation could have doubled the amount it paid its employees for wages and salaries in 1918 and still have had enough left to pay interest charges, certain stock dividends of 7 and 5 per cent. and sinking fund bonds, with a surplus of \$3,275,000.

"Second—That the corporation could in 1918 have afforded to have reduced the price of the steel it sold by \$20 a ton and still have earned enough to pay the charges on its debt and capital."

"Now, as first and second statements, your conclusions are mathematically correct. But they are, I submit, shallow, specious, misleading and, viewed from a business and common sense standpoint, inaccurate. In the first place, in your calculations you have failed entirely to recognize allowances for depreciation and deterioration, amounting to \$2,117,396, which was reserved from net earnings in accordance with the practice, and on the same basis that this corporation has observed for years, and which allowance is properly recognized as a proper and necessary one."

Also Ignored Tax Demands.

Mr. Gary says also that in arriving at his conclusions Mr. Williams omitted any allowances for Federal income and profits taxes, for which the corporation reserved \$74,377,835 in 1918.

"Had you taken this figure and the one of \$23,950,000 for depreciation and deterioration into consideration," he says, "you would at once have reduced from \$459 a ton to about \$3 a ton the reduction in prices which, according to your own method of figuring, the corporation could have cut its prices and still earned its fixed charges and 5 per cent. on its common stock, but no more, dissipating a state that income and profits taxes are not payable if not earned."

Mr. Gary says:

"But normal income taxes would be payable on profits which your calculations would allow, as, presumably in your opinion, reasonable profits; and not having allowed for this in your calculations we find another omission of some \$2,000,000 per year for your formula. However, the fact is that for 1918 the corporation did pay very nearly the total amount before mentioned, and all in accordance with the Government's program in financing the war. It is necessary to point out to you that unless citizens and business interests had been able during the war to derive relatively large income the Government would

WILLIAMS DESIGNS CURRENCY CONTROL

Comptroller Takes Parting Shot at Congress Critics in Retiring.

WASHINGTON, March 2.—John Skelton Williams retired to-night as Comptroller of the Currency. In accepting his resignation "with deep and genuine reluctance," President Wilson wrote to Mr. Williams that he had been done a "gross injustice" by the way in which the Senate Banking Committee had handled the question of his confirmation.

"I can only believe, however," said the President, "that time will disclose the injustice to everybody and that the right verdict will be rendered by opinion if not by one of the houses of Congress."

"I have had the pleasure upon more than one occasion of expressing to you the approval not only, but the admiration with which I have followed the administration of your office in the duties of Comptroller of the Currency. I have which has been a credit to the credit of this Administration but to the material benefit of the country."

President Wilson's message in reply to a letter from Mr. Williams on February 23 tendering his resignation, effective to-night, and in which he took a parting shot at some of his critics in Congress. The retiring Comptroller charged that "certain Senators" who had the power to bring his nomination before the Senate had "dodged and evaded" his nomination.

Mr. Williams also wrote that since "the expressed opposition" to his confirmation and prolonged hearings before two Senate banking committees virtually had put him "in limbo," he had felt that he was "entitled to a verdict."

"I have urged and pleaded in vain," he said, "for nomination by the Senate or executive session of any objection to my confirmation. My information is that Senator McLean of Connecticut, chairman of the Banking and Currency Committee, refused to report my nomination because he promised a certain partisan politician, not a member of the Senate, that he would not report it."

"Unfortunately," he said, "I was compelled to put in the record of the hearings an incident seriously involving the veracity of the man whose favor Senator McLean sought to obtain at the cost of justice and the honor of the country. Of course," he says, "if our plan had been lower and every one else's had been likewise, including labor and wage rates, transportation costs and prices of everything, enormous savings to the Government would have been obtained. Yet to imply that such a result could have been brought about by the Steel Corporation holding aloof, even if it were permitted, from policies determined by the Government itself, seems unreasonable."

Gratuitous, He Declares.

In his letter to the Director-General Mr. Williams declared that if the United States Steel Corporation had held prices to a moderate basis during the war, the Government, the Allies and the public would have been saved many times the \$228,000,000 paid by it in income taxes. This Mr. Gary considers a gratuitous statement because Mr. Williams failed to indicate what a moderate basis was. "Of course," he says, "if our prices had been lower and every one else's had been likewise, including labor and wage rates, transportation costs and prices of everything, enormous savings to the Government would have been obtained. Yet to imply that such a result could have been brought about by the Steel Corporation holding aloof, even if it were permitted, from policies determined by the Government itself, seems unreasonable."

Blowup Injuring Six Is Laid to Gust of Wind

One Victim in Arlington, N.J.,
Chemical Plant May Die.

An explosion in the acid house of the plant of the Du Pont de Nemours Chemical Company in Arlington, N. J., last night, injured six employees, two seriously. One of the injured, a young man, is in a critical condition. The explosion was caused by a gas leak which had been noticed by one of the employees. The gas was ignited by a spark from a piece of machinery. The explosion was heard for miles around. The plant is one of the largest in the country. It produces a variety of chemicals, including acids, dyes, and explosives. The explosion caused considerable damage to the plant. The injured employees are being treated in the local hospital. The cause of the explosion is being investigated by the local authorities.

WHITMAN TO SEEK BIGGER INDICTMENT

Grand Jury Will Devote Day to Member of Hyman Administration.

Charles S. Whitman expects to ask the Grand Jury to devote its entire session to-day to the consideration of evidence against an active member of the Hyman administration. This man is not in the Police Department, nor is he in the Street Cleaning Department, although the contract in which he is supposed to have figured has to do with the removal of ashes. Mr. Whitman said he could not discuss the matter except in case of indictment and arrest.

Last night Mr. Whitman sent to Police Headquarters calling for the production before the Grand Jury of every book-keeping record relating to the pension and relief funds. It is evident that he intends to check very carefully the report which David Hirschfeld, Commissioner of Accounts, sent to the Mayor on Tuesday. In the report Hirschfeld cited records to prove that Chief Inspector Lahey and the members of the Automobile Squad indicted for taking unlawful rewards were guiltless.

Eventually Mr. Whitman will call as Grand Jury witnesses every member of the Police Department named by Mr. Hirschfeld as having properly indorsed the acceptance of a \$50 reward by Detective George J. Andrews, with whom Lahey was indicted. Some of the members of the Police Department called before the Grand Jury talked to reporters. You can therefore judge the purpose of the Hirschfeld report. I can only add that the indictment against the members of the Police Department were returned on the testimony of the men in charge of the records referred to by Mr. Hirschfeld.

The former Governor does not intend to call Mr. Hirschfeld as a witness. William Chivers, one of the Whitman

assistants, has subpoenaed the books of the Dock Department for information regarding certain pier leases. He had in his office yesterday officers of several companies and their books. The officers were questioned about the payment of rewards to policemen for the recovery of stolen securities. Subpoenas for other surety men are returnable to-day. Saul S. Myers, counsel for the National Surety Company, has helped Mr. Chivers with information. Two detectives who have investigated bond thefts may be questioned. The evidence will not be ready for the Grand Jury before next Tuesday.

Arthur M. King, another lawyer who is helping Mr. Whitman, had a talk with a woman in his office yesterday. She called with her counsel, A. Parker Nevins. The whereabouts of her husband, a "missing witness" in regard to city contracts in Queens, has engaged Mr. King's attention. Another woman is under subpoena for to-day.

And Jim Smith, Assistant District Attorney, put on his rubbery late yesterday afternoon and stole out of the Criminal Courts Building on a secret quest.

A report on police funds made yesterday by Police Commissioner Enright to the Board of Police Commissioners and at the request of Alderman August Ferrand, Republican floor leader, showed receipts from the police field days in 1918 were \$284,615.04, while expenditures, including \$2,383 for 5,570 nickel badges and \$2,080 for forty-nine uniforms for the women's training corps, were \$273,693.82, leaving a balance of \$10,921.22.

The war relief fund made to the welfare and contingent fund at the close of 1919 was \$2,878.23, of which \$1,786 remains, \$1,088.04 having been paid, upon review by the Comptroller for the expenses of the camp fires of 1918, has assets in stock amounting to \$2,113.18 and a cash balance of \$38,521.94. A donation of \$1,000 by L. B. Beaumont to the airplane hangar fund remains intact.

Receipts for 1920 for the police relief fund were \$685,204.37, of which \$419,715.56 came from the police games of 1920. Expenditures were \$245,000 for the board of the Police Commissioner as custodian of the fund; \$38,515.63 for widows and orphans of policemen killed in line of duty; \$25,000 for loan to the hospital fund and \$50,000 to the account of the police sanitarium.

The police relief home service account, under which stores are maintained for policemen and their families, received \$802,351.85, and had a balance in the bank of \$43,318.24.

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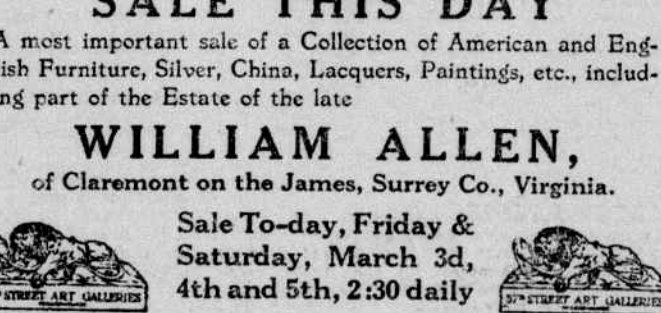
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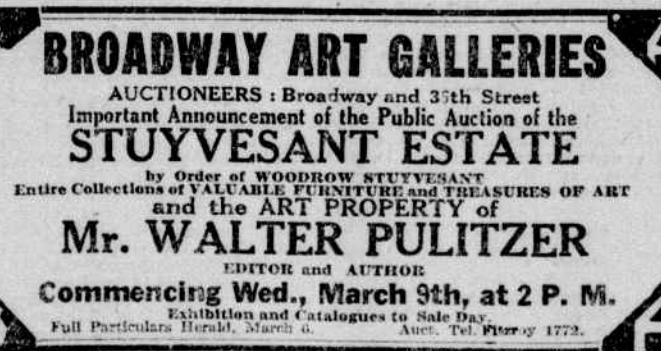


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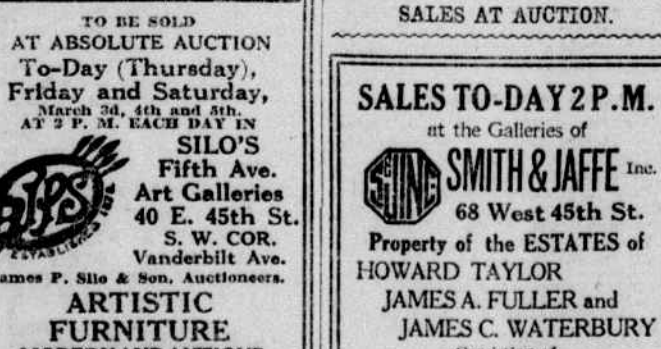
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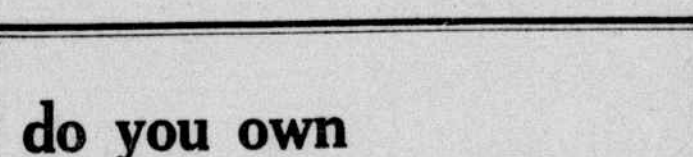
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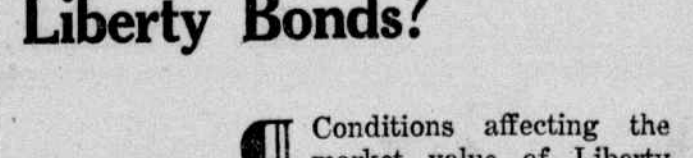
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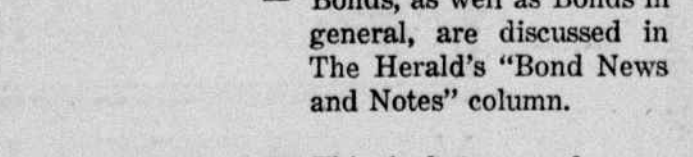
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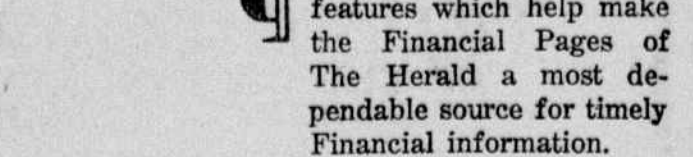
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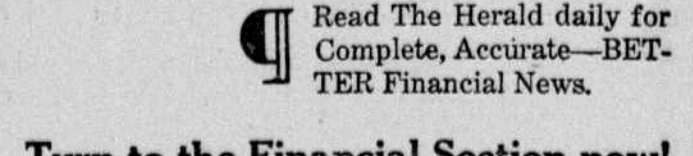
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